

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An orthopaedic cement mixing apparatus comprising a mixing chamber and a cylindrical dispensing chamber, the mixing chamber having an outlet opening and the dispensing chamber having an inlet opening, the outlet opening and the inlet opening being arranged so as to allow cement mixed in the mixing chamber to pass into the dispensing chamber; closure means having a first position separating the outlet opening of the mixing chamber and the inlet opening of the dispensing chamber; and means for applying a vacuum to the mixing chamber and to the dispensing chamber; characterized in that the apparatus further comprises switching means for switching the applied vacuum between the mixing chamber and the dispensing chamber and that the closure means comprises a rotatable ball-like tap with a passage therethrough wherein the tap is moveable from the first position whereby flow of cement between the mixing chamber and the dispensing chamber is prevented and a second position whereby cement can flow from the mixing chamber to the dispensing chamber.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dispensing chamber is a cylindrical body of a dispensing syringe.

4. (Currently Amended) An orthopaedic cement mixing apparatus comprising a mixing chamber and a dispensing chamber, the mixing chamber having an outlet aperture and the dispensing chamber having an inlet aperture, a rotatable tap disposed between said mixing chamber and said dispensing chamber, wherein in a first rotated position the outlet aperture and the inlet aperture being in cement flow communication, and in a second rotated position, cement flow communication between said outlet aperture and said inlet aperture is prevented, the apparatus further comprising a mixing paddle extending into said mixing chamber and a rotatable handle coupled to said paddle by a gear mechanism arranged such that rotation of said handle causes said paddle to rotate about its own axis and also moves the axis of rotation of the paddle within the chamber whereby the paddle is moved around substantially the entire cement containing region of the interior of the chamber.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the mixing chamber is a bowl.

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6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising switching means for switching the applied vacuum between the mixing chamber and the dispensing chamber.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 4, wherein the mixing chamber and the dispensing chamber are simultaneously, during the whole mixing and dumping process, under a vacuum.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An orthopaedic cement mixing apparatus comprising a mixing chamber and a dispensing chamber, the mixing chamber

having an outlet aperture and the dispensing chamber having an inlet aperture, the inlet aperture and the outlet aperture being in cement flow communication, and further comprising closure means for separating the inlet aperture and the outlet aperture to prevent the flow of cement from the mixing chamber to the dispensing chamber, wherein the closure means comprises a rotatable ball-like tap with a passage therethrough located between the mixing chamber and the dispensing chamber and being is moveable between a closed position whereby flow of cement from the mixing chamber to the dispensing chamber is prevented and an open position whereby cement can flow from the mixing chamber to the dispensing chamber.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

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20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein a vacuum is applied to the mixing chamber and to the dispensing chamber both during mixing and dumping.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 14, wherein the dispensing chamber is a cylindrical body of a dispensing syringe.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising switching means for switching the applied vacuum between the mixing chamber and the dispensing chamber.

23. (Canceled)